

Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl No. 26.) mentions one record, a vagrant (WAM A3291) collected at Kanowna in 1929.

– A. CHAPMAN and G. PRONK, CALM, P.O. Box 10173, Kalgoorlie, W.A. 6430.

Female Elephant Seal visits Eyre Bird Observatory – On 5 November 1992, we accompanied a group of visitors on the weekly wader and seabird survey along Kanidal Beach. At 14km west of the Eyre Observatory we observed a large marine mammal basking on a rock about a metre above the water and 100 m from the shore. After about 10 minutes it moved into the sea and swam away.

On 10 November we saw what appeared to be the same animal sleeping on a sand dune at Kanidal Beach. We approached to within two metres and observed it closely. We identified it as a female Elephant Seal after consulting the Australian Museum's *Complete Book of Australian Mammals*. We made this identification because: the animal was 200 – 260 cm long, it had no external ear, it was grey brown in colour with no markings, it had hind legs developed into flippers which were directed backwards, it moved with a "humping", not quadrupedal motion, and it had claws on the ends of its front flippers.

Its appearance matched photos we have seen of female Elephant Seals and it did not possess the greater size and bulbous nose of the male. It remained on the dune sleeping and occasionally scratching for about 24 hours before disappearing. It was seen again on 18 November resting on a weed bank at the edge of the water 5 km west of the Eyre Bird

Observatory but moved off into the sea and swam away after several backward looks. The animal was photographed at this time but has not been seen since.

According to W.A. Museum records Elephant Seals have been sighted and photographed at Moses Rock in July 1977 and Yallingup Beach in August 1981. The Elephant Seal is distributed mainly in sub-Antarctic latitudes and they rarely come ashore in Australia since the Bass Strait population was hunted to extinction in the 19th century.

– RITA and GEORGE WATKINS, Eyre Bird Observatory

Grey Falcons on Nullarbor Plain – On 4 May 1993 I saw a small flock of five Grey Falcons *Falco hypoleucos* on the northern Nullarbor Plain (126°40', 30°10') or approximately 100 km north of Kybo Station Homestead. The falcons were perching in dead Myall *Acacia papyrocarpa* in open Bluebush *Maireana sedifolia* plain. According to *The Atlas of Australian Birds* small flocks of this size are indicative of recent breeding with the juveniles remaining with the parents for a short period of time. Under the Wildlife Conservation Act the Grey Falcon is declared rare fauna in Western Australia.

– ANDREW CHAPMAN, CALM, P.O. Box 10173, Kalgoorlie W.A. 6430

Fork-tailed Swifts in Roleystone – On 25 November 1992 I saw a large flock of Fork-tailed Swifts *Apus pacificus* over Roleystone. At about 0855 hours I noticed the birds flying high over Canning Valley and for the next 15 minutes a spectacular "flypast" took place involving at least

2,000 birds. I had a commanding view over the valley from high up on the northern side and was able to observe the birds drifting in from the west and heading east up the valley approximately following the course of Brookton Highway. The birds were at many levels in the air, from below my level to very high and almost out of sight. At about the same time, about 100 Fork-tailed Swifts were seen by a friend in Alice Road, Roleystone, 2 km to the northeast.

The weather that morning was fine and sunny with a fresh northerly wind blowing ahead of an approaching cold front.

The Fork-tailed Swift is a visitor to southern Western Australia from mid-December to late-April (Storr, 1991, Birds of the Southwest Division of Western Australia, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl.* 35).

- MIKE GREEN, 21 Contour Road, Roleystone. 6111



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